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Suggestion No. 1417

A. Summary of the Suggestion:

Suggestion 1417 and 1417-A proposed the use of film strips to orientate new personnel in the mission and functions of the Agency, as well as to point up the need for and present use of space.

B. Evaluation of Concerned Offices:

On 31 March 1955, the Director/FPB/SS/TR forwarded the following evaluation:

"Considering suggestion #1417, it is felt that although orientation films are important and can add to the understanding of employees, present motion picture production capabilities should be devoted to the making of more specific training films than has been suggested here. Second, the cost of producing a film must be balanced by its usefulness over a period of years and, therefore, any orientation film must deal with broad policy that will remain basically unchanged during the life of the picture. As you know, we are already planning to produce a general security film of the Office of Security which is a type of orientation film as suggested. In principle, I think that we can agree with the suggestion and that we are and have been planning pictures along these lines but have to proceed slowly because of limited facilities."

On 7 June 1955, the Chief, Basic School, TR stated:

"The value of orientation films has long been recognized by OTR, and action to obtain or produce suitable films of this nature has been and is proceeding to the extent that our capabilities permit. Thus, with respect to the general import of the two suggestions, they add nothing new to already existing policy and procedures, and hence do not warrant an award."

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are engaged in specialized technical film production, and their facilities do not meet our requirements for the production of orientation-type films appropriate to Agency activities.

"Regarding costs, estimates of our Film Branch show that there is no advantage to the Agency in going outside for such production. The Agency has equipment and personnel to produce a modest series of films, and can do the job more cheaply than can the facilities suggested."

"It is recommended that the two suggestions be disapproved on grounds that they contribute nothing new, and fail to show a prospect of savings in carrying out existing activities."

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Suggestion No. 1417 (Cont'd)

In a memorandum dated 26 September 1955, the Executive Secretary returned the suggestion as amplified by 1417-A to OTR with the comment:

"Prior to receipt of your referenced evaluation on 2 February the subject suggester visited the Incentive Awards Staff and received a personal briefing on the working of the Incentive Awards Program. At that time, the subject of his suggestion No. 1417 was discussed, and it was pointed out that the value of his suggestion could be enhanced through the inclusion of more specific applications and uses. He agreed to submit a clarification, which was not received until approximately 31 August 1955; i.e. subsequent to the receipt of your own evaluation.

"Although we do not normally permit a suggestion to be clarified or revised after its evaluation has been completed, under the above circumstances we have accepted this clarification. We request, therefore, that your office reevaluate the subject suggestion together with its clarification and amplification, numbered 1417-A and attached hereto."

The Executive Officer, OTR replied to the memorandum on 5 December 1955 as follows:

"As I have mentioned to you before, we feel that the studies which have been made by our Film Production Branch over the past two or three years have covered practically all of the potential uses for motion pictures in this Agency.

"At the present time, we are working on two types of programs. The first involves the production of one feature training film each year, running two or three hours in length and covering in each case a subject of primary importance to training. Secondly, we are about to begin a series of what might be called Class B films, running one to two reels each, which can be used to support individual lectures covering subjects of secondary importance. These two programs alone will require at least two more years unless the Film Production Branch is expanded in order to produce at an accelerated rate.

"In the original proposals to the Project Review Committee we indicated that the needs for films outside of OTR would be considered as soon as the training film program was complete. We plan to study these needs in detail at some time in the future and I am sure many possible uses for films will come to light at that time. As an example, we already have a request from RQM to make a film of their briefing in order to save the time required to conduct periodic briefings "live".

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Suggestion No. 1417 (Cont'd)

"The possibility of putting the former CIA orientation course on film was considered some time ago. It was the consensus of opinion, however, that a great part of the psychological value of the course was to have our senior officials appear in person. However, as you know, this course has now been cancelled.

"I might add that following the disapproval of this employee's original suggestion I talked with him at some length and feel sure that he understands the scope of the studies we have made and the programs which we hope to develop."

C. Recommendation of the Executive Secretary:

Disapproval ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~  
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